

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:  
a game control ~~means~~ device for controlling a card game that is played by a plurality of players ~~including a virtual player~~; and  
a benefit provision ~~means~~ device for providing benefits of the card game to said players ~~in accordance with game media used in the card game~~, the gaming machine further comprising:  
a rank determination ~~means~~ device for determining a player ranking in accordance with a result of the card game; and  
a win/loss determination ~~means~~ device for determining winning players of the card game among the plurality of players to be provided with benefits of the card game ~~based on the player ranking determined by said rank determination means~~;  
wherein said win/loss determination ~~means~~ device determines the winning players ~~such that the winning players include~~ who comprise a combination of a the determined highest ranking player and a player other than a ~~second~~ the highest ranking player ~~according to the player ranking determined by lottery~~.
2. (Original) The gaming machine according to Claim 1, wherein said card game comprises poker.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine with which a card game is played by

a plurality of players ~~including a virtual player and~~ which provides benefits of the card game to winning players among the plurality of players in accordance with game media used in the card game;

~~wherein a processor configured to determine said winning~~ winning players are ~~determined that will receive the benefits of the card game so as to include a highest ranking player according to a result of the card game and a player other than a second highest another randomly selected player according to a result of the card game.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine with which a plurality of players play a game individually using game media, the game machine comprising:

individual display parts, each of which shows an individual game content for a respective player;

a common display part which shows common information shared with other players; ~~and~~

operating parts, each of which is operated by each individual player; and

~~wherein the gaming machine provides~~ a processor configured to direct benefits of the game to a highest ranking player of the game based on a result of the game and a to another player other than the highest ranking player, but being selected by a predetermined criterion of the game based on a lottery result.

7. (Currently Amended) A server ~~being provided connectable via a communication line link to terminal devices, each of which has information input means is for inputting information by a respective player of a card game played by a plurality of players,~~ the server comprising:

~~a game control means for controlling a card game played by a plurality of players including a virtual player, the game control means being provided with each of said terminal devices;~~

a benefit provision ~~means device~~ for providing benefits of the game to the plurality of players in accordance with input information by the plurality of players;

a rank determination ~~means device~~ for determining a player ranking in

accordance with a result of the game; and

~~a win/loss determination means device for determining winning players by the ranking such that the winning players are determined of the game so as to include a highest ranking player based on the determined ranking and a another player other than a second highest player according to the player ranking based on a lottery result.~~

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Newly Added) A gaming system on which a game is playable by a plurality of players, comprising:

a data store configured to store logic; and

a processor configured to execute the stored logic to (i) determine a ranking of each of the plurality of players from a highest ranking player to a lowest ranking player based on a result of the play of the game, (ii) randomly select one of the plurality of players, and (iii) direct benefits of the game to both the determined highest ranking player and the randomly selected player.

11. (Newly Added) The gaming system according to claim 10, wherein:

the processor is further configured to execute the stored logic to randomly select the one player from the plurality of players other than the determined highest ranking player.

12. (Newly Added) The gaming system according to claim 10, wherein:

the processor is further configured to execute the stored logic to determine a total disbursement amount based on amounts bet by the plurality of players in connection with the playing of the game, and to determine a first disbursement amount and a second disbursement amount based on the determined total disbursement amount; wherein the benefit of the game directed to the determined highest ranking player

is the first disbursement amount, and wherein the benefit of the game directed to the randomly selected player is the second disbursement amount.

13. (Newly Added) The gaming system according to claim 12, wherein:

the first disbursement amount is greater than the second disbursement amount.